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Amendment and Response
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Remarks

Claims 20-26 are canceled above. Applicant confirms the election of apparatus claims 1-19 and 27-31.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of original claim 3, which is now canceled. Applicants submit that claim 1 is now allowable, along with dependent claims 2, 4-6 and 10-11.

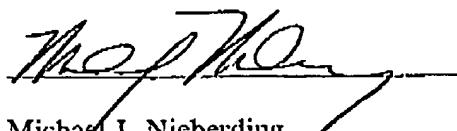
Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that claim 7 is now allowable, along with dependent claims 8-9.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitation of original claim 16, which is now canceled. Applicants submit that claim 12 is now allowable, along with dependent claims 13-15 and 17-19.

Based upon the foregoing, all pending claims are allowable and this application should be passed to issue.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of any claim prior to its amendment or of any claim cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,



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